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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Letter dated 18 September 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement by the Moldovan Government issued in connection with the so-called Transnistrian referendum, conducted on 17 September 2006 by the self-proclaimed separatist regime in the Transnistrian region of Moldova (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its sixty-first session, under agenda item 27.

(*Signed*) Alexei **Tulbure**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

06-52820 (E) 210906 220906

Annex to the letter dated 18 September 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Government of the Republic of Moldova

9 September 2006

The authorities of the Transnistrian region, disregarding the unanimous and categorical position of the international community, held a so-called consultative referendum on political self-determination for the region on 17 September 2006. The Government of the Republic of Moldova regards this "referendum" merely as a way of torpedoing the process of negotiation on the peaceful reintegration of the Moldovan State and as an attempt to preserve the region's authoritarian and criminal regime. The Moldovan Government hereby states that, like the entire international community, it does not recognize the results of the so-called referendum of 17 September and considers that it can in no way be taken into account in the context of a peaceful final settlement of the conflict.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova expresses its gratitude to the States and organizations taking part in the process of political settlement of the Transnistrian problem — the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union and the United States of America — for their common understanding that a solution to the Transnistrian problem is possible only with respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. The Moldovan Government shares their conviction that the results of this "manifestation of will" cannot be officially recognized: during the referendum process, the region's population was subjected to administrative pressure and propaganda.

The Republic of Moldova appreciates the active and increasing involvement of many countries and also of eminent international organizations and institutions in the process of settlement of the long-standing conflict in the Dniester region. The forthcoming discussion of the problem in the United Nations General Assembly will undoubtedly be a new milestone in efforts to resolve the situation. The Moldovan Government will accept with interest the support and initiatives of the entire international community for the implementation of specific decisions aimed at the reintegration of the Republic of Moldova and at guaranteeing the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the residents of the Transnistrian region of the country. The Moldovan Government will continue to pursue a policy for the consistent and peaceful reintegration of the State, based solely on the expansion and consolidation of confidence-building measures among the population on both banks of the Dniester, full political, social and economic guarantees for the residents of the Transnistrian region, and guarantees of security, stability and the irreversibility of democratic development throughout the Republic of Moldova.